

CONNECTING THE JOBLESS MAN WITH THE MANLESS JOB

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UNCLE SAM today is engaged in the beneficent work of securing employment for his unemployed nieces and nephews, whether native or foreign born. Uncle Sam's workers in chief at the problem of connecting the jobless man with the manless job are William B. Wilson, secretary of the department of labor; Anthony Caminetti, the commissioner general of immigration, and T. V. Powderly, chief of the division of information of the immigration bureau.

Nobody knows definitely how many unemployed men and women there are in the United States today. One thing, however, is known definitely, that the number probably is not as great nor anything like as great in proportion to the population as it has been at times in the past. There are enough of the unemployed, however, to make the problem a serious one, but there seems to be a belief on the part of government officials that the broadening of the field of federal effort to help men and women to work steadily will sap the strength of that dreaded and at times actually devouring monster known as unemployment.

The division of information of the bureau of immigration not only is engaged in the work of promoting the beneficial distribution of aliens admitted to the United States, but under the general power of the law is directing the distribution of residents and citizens of the United States "who wish to avail themselves of opportunities for labor afforded through its instrumentality."

Recently the post office department and the department of agriculture have entered into a co-operative arrangement with the department of labor in aid of the plan "for the employment and distribution of laborers in the United States; the former through its postmasters, officers in charge of branch post offices and rural carriers; and the latter through its field and other services throughout the United States."

Every officer of the department of agriculture, no matter where he is located, is charged with the duty of keeping Washington officials informed concerning the necessity for workers in the locality in which he resides. Every farmer in the United States through the post office department by this time has been, or soon will be, furnished with application blanks upon which he can state any need which he has of farm laborers or of help of any description. These blanks filled in and forwarded will do the service for which they are intended—the connection of some competent man with work of the kind which he seeks.

The work which is being done in connection with farm labor is, of course, only one part of the service which the department of labor through its division of information is performing. Manufacturers and employers of labor of all kinds are furnished with blanks similar to those sent to the farmers, except, of course, that they are adjusted to meet other kinds of working needs. The correspondence of the department is tremendous and the work of giving men work is going forward rapidly.

Before going into the details of the mechanism of the system by which natives, sometimes residents, and recently arrived immigrants are directed to fields of employment, something should be said about the development of this great governmental plan to provide work for the workless. For a quarter of a century William B. Wilson, now a member of President Wilson's cabinet as the head of the department of labor, has been deeply interested, concerned, perhaps, were a better word, in the solution of the problem of forging the connecting link of information between the man seeking work and the man seeking workmen.

For just as long and perhaps a longer period T. V. Powderly, the chief of the division of information, has been interested in the same problem. Mr. Powderly has been connected with the government service for some years and has developed a system of getting the work and the workless worker together until today the post office department and the agricultural department are co-operating with the department of labor in a broad and comprehensive plan to reduce the evil of unemployment to a minimum which might be called natural.

Perhaps Mr. Powderly will enter no objection if one tells a story of how he first became interested to a heart and mind feeling point in plans to get work for the workless. To me the story is an interesting one and it seems that it ought to be to others.

In the year 1873 T. V. Powderly, a machinist by trade, lost his eyesight. For three months he sat in darkness, and being unable to work he lost his job. His sight came back and he started on a tramp looking for work. He was a tramp seeking work, not a tramp seeking handouts. He left the United States and went into Canada. He found no work. On the eve of New Year's day, 1873, he found himself in St. Thomas, Ont., with no money in his pocket, no food in his stomach and no place to sleep. A watchman allowed him to sleep in the freight house of a depot on a bed made of baggage. From there Powderly walked to Buffalo seeking work. There a good-hearted Irishman gave him breakfast, the first one he had had for some days. All this time the trapper was asking himself why there was not some means of letting him know where there was work. In asking himself this he was charging his heart and mind with a purpose in life, the same purpose which Secretary Wilson of the department of labor fixed in his own mind and heart a quarter of a century ago.

"Tramp" Powderly reached one town where there were some machine shops. He applied for work and there were no vacancies. He left.

WON WITH HARD LUCK STORY

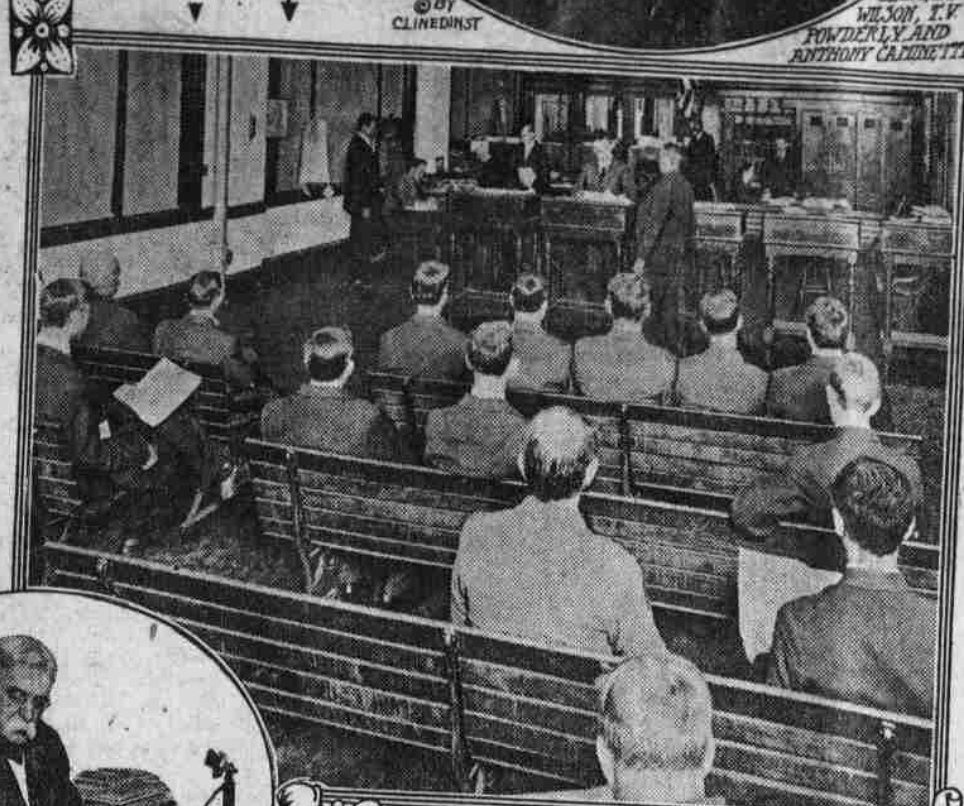
Generous Citizen Couldn't Resist Such a Heart-Rendering Narrative as Beggar Told.

The generous citizen had been approached three times that day by beggars who claimed that they were in hard luck; and to each of them he had unhesitatingly given money. But when he was accosted by the fourth aim seeker, who also asserted that luck

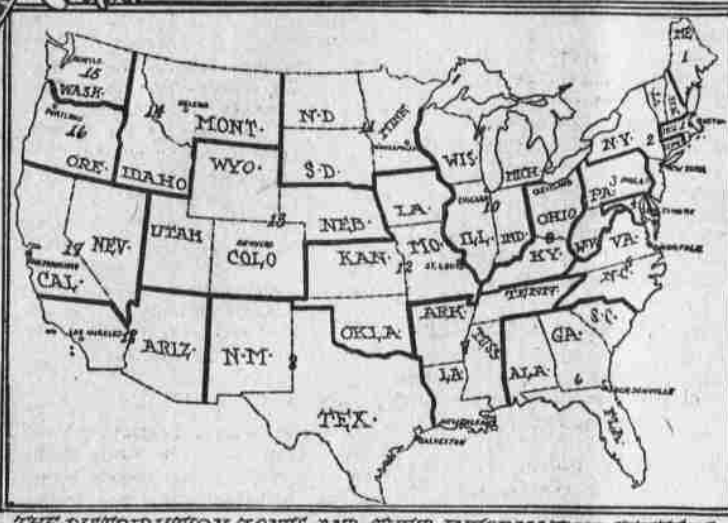
had been against him, the G. C.'s liberality tightened. "I'll tell you what I'll do," said he to the needy looking individual. "You tell me the story of the cause that forced you to beg. If it's a case of genuine hard luck, I'll help you out; if it isn't, I'll call a policeman."

"Honest, mister," said the beggar, humbly, "it was real, downright hard luck that caused me to come to youse a-beggin'."

"A little while ago, mister, I was a-standin' on the corner, holdin' in



APPLICANTS FOR WORK AT DISTRIBUTION BRANCH DIVISION OF INFORMATION



THE DISTRIBUTION ZONES AND THEIR INFORMATION CENTERS

Shortly afterward he learned that at another machine shop they had needed men. If he had known it he could have secured work at his trade and have been clothed, well fed and happy. He had no means of knowing except by direct application that at this place there was work.

Today, as a result of study of systems and of the development of ideas formulated through the years, a workless man can go to any post office, or soon will be able to do so, in the United States and there learn from the government officials of the employment possibilities in the neighborhood. Uncle Sam is using his postmasters as a means of getting the willing worker to the waiting job.

There are many factors in this problem of unemployment. It must be known that there are tramps and tramps. There is the man who is looking for work and who seeks it and has to tramp to do it, and then there is the man who has lost his work and has become discouraged and apparently does not care whether or not he ever finds work again. This first man has not lost his self-respect and the second man has either lost it or has come pretty close to losing it. It is not going too far, perhaps, to say that a part of the governmental function eventually will be to recultivate a spirit of self-respect in men who through idleness, enforced idleness in the first place, generally, have lost it. Some day these men will be brought back to manhood. They are in the minority, for experience shows that most of the idle ones are idle because they can and a sign of the softer nature which underlies almost every exterior, even if it is a rugged one and perhaps seemingly at times a hard one.

The United States, for the purpose of connecting employment seekers with employment, has been divided into distribution zones. There are 18 of these zones. The official of the immigration service already on duty in a city in each zone attends to the work of distribution. For a long time the labor of distributing workmen was carried on from New York city, and it is true that in the future a large part of the supply of material will come from New York, because it is a big city and also a great immigration port. The headquarters cities of the different distribution zones are New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Norfolk, Jacksonville, Fla., New Orleans, Galveston, Cleveland, Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Louis, Denver, Helena, Seattle, Portland, Ore., San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Let New York city as a distributing center and as a center of information be taken as a chief example of how things are being done in this effort to connect the unemployed with employment. Canon L. Greene is the inspector in charge of the information work at the large office in New York city. Now, it should be known that the government not only tries to connect workless ones with work, but it also tries to put men who have saved a little money and who want to buy farms in touch with conditions in any part of the country in which it seems likely that they will make a success of their farming efforts.

A man seeking work on a farm comes into the large office in New York. First, the officials read a lesson in human nature from the man's face. They try to discover, it is said, and almost always succeed, how much sincerity there is in him. Then he is asked how much money he has. If he has enough to take him to the place of employment all well and good. The fact that he is willing to pay the money to take him there is first proof of his desire to work and to stick to it.

There are men, however, who have no money, but who are capable, willing, temperate and anxious

to work. In many cases the farmer who needs a special kind of man is willing to advance the transportation which will take the employed from the place of his application for work to the scene of action. Now, of course, some men might take the transportation and never show up and the government has not funds to make good such petty defalcations. Nearly every man, however, who applies for work wants work, and such men generally have some personal belongings. He is told that if he will check his belongings, which are first examined to see if they are valuable enough to cover the cost of transportation, and will give the check to the authorities, they will give him the money to send him to his place of employment. This system of baggage checking has been going on for a long time and almost never has there been a slip. The men go and in most cases make good.

Chief Powderly of the division of information says that in the belongings of most of the men who apply for work are found pictures of a mother or a father or of a family group, and that almost invariably when the baggage is turned over for inspection and transportation the workseeker says: "Don't lose the picture." It is a human trait and a sign of the softer nature which underlies almost every exterior, even if it is a rugged one and perhaps seemingly at times a hard one.

The remedy for unemployment is employment. This is what Mr. Powderly says and it seems as sharply true as the saying of the past in connection with the resumption of specie payment. "The way to resume is to resume." It is the effort today of the department of labor, through its division of information, to ask all employers in the United States, agricultural, commercial, manufacturing, to tell the government what men they want and what they pay. The rural carriers, the post offices and every postal means is being used to get the information. The responses have been most generous. The officials at one distribution center when they find that the proper place for a man or that the place to which he wishes to go is located in another zone communicate with the distribution center of that zone. The work is systematized and rapidly it is becoming the most effective agent to diminish the condition of unemployment in America.

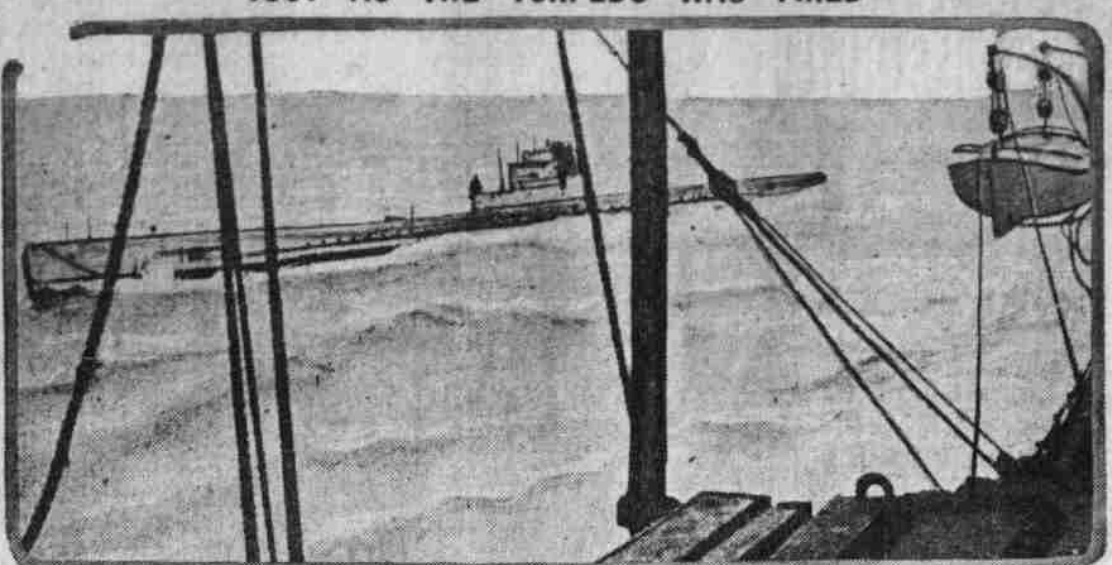
The officials of the division of information are now seeking definite information concerning how much repair work on barns and other buildings on the farms is done each winter. The plan is to see if through the farmers who need the help of carpenters or machinists in winter, relief cannot be given to many city workers who have little or nothing to do during the cold winter months. The farmers are to be asked what repairs they will need next winter and what kind of a man they would like to have. The federal officials will find the man and thus they hope to supply with employment during the slack times in the city many men willing and anxious to labor through the entire year.

It seemingly is a wish of the officials of the department of labor that it should be known that while the division of information is a part of the bureau of immigration that this work of connecting the jobless with the job does not concern itself alone with the immigrant, but aims to give its service fully and freely alike to the incoming stranger and to the man who knows this as his native land.

into the air an' said: 'Heads I eat, an' tails I drink.' An' then—right then the most terrible an' unforeseen blow that could fall upon a human being happened to me—the dime fall to the ground an' rolled into the sewer! Now, don't youse think, mister, that that was genuine hard luck?

The generous citizen hastily pulled out a dollar and gave it to the beggar. "Get something to eat and get shaved, but leave drink alone," he advised.

JUST AS THE TORPEDO WAS FIRED



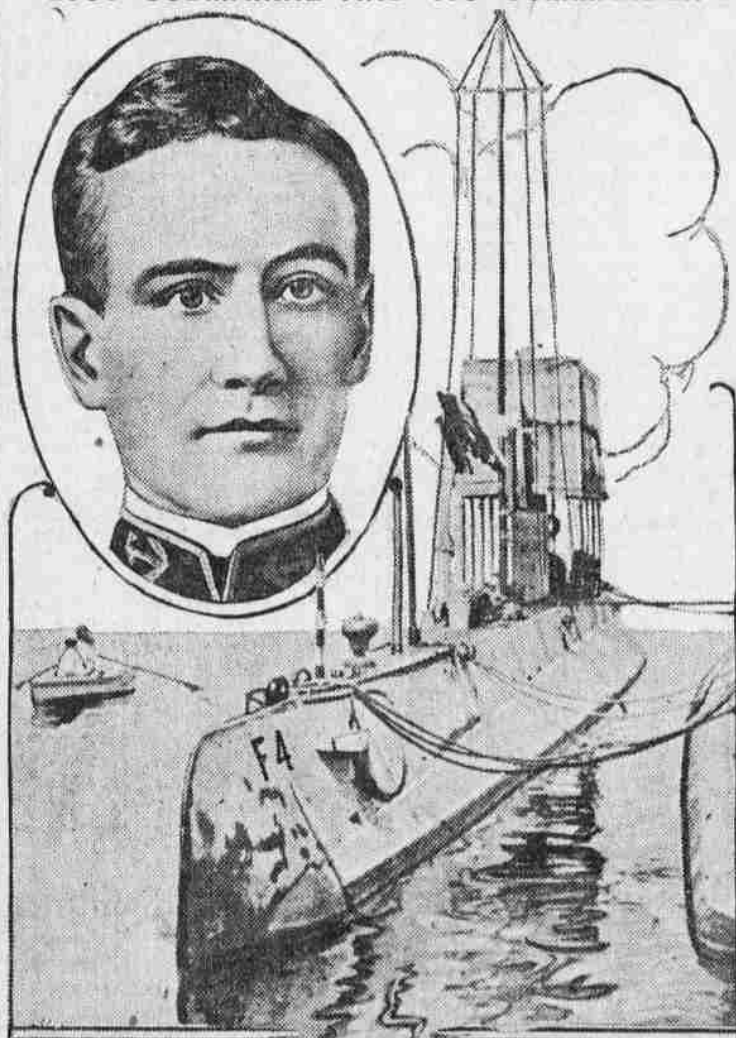
Remarkable photograph of the German submarine U-29 made from the deck of the British steamship Headlands just as the submarine fired the torpedo that destroyed the merchant vessel off the Scilly Islands. This is one of the photographs that won the \$500 prize offered weekly by two London papers for the best war pictures.

THE HORRORS OF THE WAR IN SERBIA



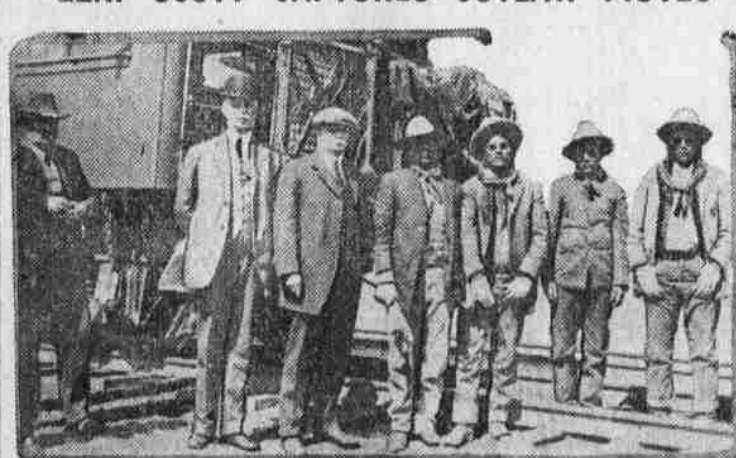
Scene in a Serbian village showing peasants slain by the Austrians as they retreated from the soil of Serbia.

LOST SUBMARINE AND ITS COMMANDER



United States submarine F-4, which was lost in Honolulu harbor, with its entire crew, and Lieut. Alfred J. Ede, the commander of the vessel.

GEN. SCOTT CAPTURES OUTLAW PIUTES



The capture of the outlaw Piutes who had started an Indian uprising in Utah, by Brig. Gen. Hugh L. Scott was a feat characteristic of the chief of staff of the army. Unarmed and with only his aid, Lieut. Col. R. E. L. Michie, and one private, he met the rebellious Indians and persuaded the ringleaders to surrender. In the photograph, left to right, are: U. S. Marshal Nebeker, Lieutenant Colonel Michie, General Scott, Chief Old Polk, his son, Hatch (Tae-Na-Gat), Chief Posey and Posey's son.

The Future Man.

When one goes way back to the cave man or beyond him to the time when man walked on all fours and slept in a tree, and then reflects upon what man is now, he is wont to imagine what sort of a creature he will be hundreds of centuries hence. Some of us who believe in the ascent of man are inclined to accord to him an angelic form and grace, as far ahead of the present man as he is ahead of his prehistoric progenitors.

But now comes a scientist who suggests that the future evolution of the human race may develop lips like the bill of a pelican. A circumstance that suggests this change is the use of these bubbling fountains by the children, which has a tendency to produce protruding lips. What else goes with these protruding lips the scientist does not say, but if they add to his fishing efficiency he must have wings for that, and wings we would all like to have.—Ohio State Journal.

MARK PLACES OF INTEREST

Harvard College Authorities Have Set Landmarks at Points That Figure in Its History.

The Harvard Memorial society has placed a bronze tablet in one of the brick posts of the yard fence, close to the gate that is midway between Wadsworth house and Dane hall, to mark the sites of two buildings that figured in the very early history of the college.

For two hundred years, says the Boston Transcript, the fact that these houses had existed was known, though their location was uncertain, but in 1909 their foundations were discovered in the digging of the Cambridge subway. Both houses antedated the founding of the college in 1636, but their history prior to that date is obscure. The inscription on the tablet is as follows:

"Near this spot, as indicated in the street pavement, stood, when the college was founded, two houses: to the east the house occupied by Nathaniel Eaton, first teacher of the college, 1638-1639, while the College hall was building; to the west the house of Edward Goffe, acquired by the college before 1654, used as a dormitory and known as Goffe's college."

BOB GORDON AND THE MACE



"Bob" Gordon, sergeant at arms of the house of representatives, is here shown holding the mace of the house, which has been sent to New York to be repaired. The job must be done quickly, for congress could not assemble if the mace were not in its place.

Got Them Mixed.

It happens that my stories are read in the family of a well-known probate judge up in Danbury, Conn., writes Irvin S. Cobb. Otherwise the judge's household is above reproach. Not the least important member of the family is the queen of the kitchen, the old colored cook, and she has her fling at the magazine every week as soon as the new one arrives.

The judge is a keen follower of all the war stories by different writers in the magazine, and he knew that the old mammy had been looking over some of the stuff herself, as she had expressed her opinions about the Germans and "alleys" on several occasions.

One day soon after the story of my interview with Lord Kitchener was published, the judge casually asked mammy how the war was going along, and if she thought they'd ever stop fighting.

"Jedge," she said, "dat wah gonna last jes' three years."

"How'd you find that out?" asked the judge.

"De king o' Europe done told Ty Cobb."

Making It Right.

"I am going to sell kisses at the church fair."

"Are you?"

"You should have said you'd buy some."

"I could not well say that until I knew if they are to be your own kisses or are to be furnished by your cook. I don't care for confectionery."

Quite So.

"Pa, what is an optimist?"

"One of those cheerful idiots, son, who approve of any improvement when other people have to pay the bills."